

Van Campen - Dewitt Barn
West side Old Mine Road
Wallpack Center Vicinity
Walpack Township
Sussex County
New Jersey

HABS NJ-736

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NJ,
19-WALPAC.V,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VAN CAMPEN - DEWITT BARN

HABS No. NJ - 736

Location: West side of Old Mine Road, .7 mile northwest of Wallpack Center, Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Lake Maskenozha Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.509000. 4556820.

Present Use: Destroyed by fire, 1972.

Significance: This good example of a heavy-timbered barn was built, according to tradition, by John H. DeWitt in the early nineteenth century. It is an unusual barn with a central hay loft. Though added to and refaced, the extent and form of the original structure are still evident.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Early nineteenth century. Menzies attributes the building to John H. Dewitt of Accord, N.Y., without giving her source. Hine noted that the barn were a "peculiar long roofed structure," and stated that it was built by John H. Dewitt. This was probably Menzies' source. If the barn were built by John H. Dewitt, it was probably soon after his acquisition of the property in 1822.

2. Architect: Not known.

3. Original subsequent owners:

1801 Written 7 Sept. 1801
Probated 19 Dec. 1801.
Will of Isaac VanCampen
File No. 952-S
Room "in which I now live" shall be appropriated to the use of son Isaac during his natural life. To Abraham: full possession of real estate during the life of his three impotent children.
After death of children, farm to be divided between Isaac and Abraham.

- 1808 Deed: 9 May 1808 Rec. 23 May 1808
Deed Book Vol. S p. 4
Abraham VanCampen, executor of last will and testament of
Isaac VanCampen, Esq., decd., and Rowena his wife,
Isaac VanCampen, John I. Rosenkranse (son-in-law) and
Catherine (his wife) all of Walpack
to
Henry Dewitt, Jr. of Rochester Township, Ulster Co., N.Y.
For \$7500. 356.86 acres and 7.60 acres in Walpack Township.
- 1809 Deed: 23 May 1809 Rec. 24 May 1809
Deed Book Vol. S p. 404
Abraham VanCampen of Walpack
to Henry Dewitt, Jr., of town of Rochester, Ulster Co., N.Y.
For \$5000. 318 acres excepting church lot and 7 acres.
Refers to the previous purchase of the farm and homestead by
Dewitt. Land adjoins the "late plantation of Isaac
VanCampen."
Dewitt is indemnified against all claims of the "three
impotent children" of Isaac, whom Abraham was enjoined in his
father's will to support as a condition of his inheritance.
- 1809 Deed: 22 May 1809 Rec. 24 May 1809
Deed Book Vol. T p. 44
Isaac VanCampen to Henry Dewitt
For \$500, release of all claim to land of Isaac, Sr.
- 1811 Deed: 11 Sept. 1811. Rec. 8 Dec. 1820
Deed Book Vol. Q-2 p. 27
Henry Dewitt, Jr., and wife to John I. Rosenkrans
Henry Dewitt had doubts on the legality of his purchase of the
farm, so Abraham VanCampen mortgaged the farm and allowed
foreclosure of the mortgage, thereby giving Dewitt possession.
John Rosenkrans raised the "three impotent children" and had
use of part of the farm during this time. On the death of the
children, he would receive part of the farm.
- 1822 Deed: April 1822 Recd. 8 May 1822
Vol. S-2 p. 385
Henry Dewitt et ux of Ulster Co., N.Y.
Bounded on the west by the Delaware River, on the north by the
land of heir Rosenkrans, on the east by public highway, and on
the south by the lands of Henry Dewitt.
For \$1 20 acres
- 1823 Deed: 1 Sept. 1823 Rec. 1 Sept. 1823
Vol. X-2 p. 430
Henry Dewitt Jr. to John I. Rosenkrans
The land as agreed in 1811.

1838	Deed 7 April 1838 Vol. A-4 Cornelia Dewitt, wife of John H. Dewitt, dec'd. to Henry Dewitt and Peter Dewitt For \$2500. 20.56 acres	Rec. 24 May 1842 p. 258
1838	Deed: 7 April 1838 Vol. A-4 Cornelius W. Dewitt to Henry Dewitt and Peter Dewitt For \$2500. An undivided 1/3 share of the land of John H. Dewitt, decd.	Rec. 24 May 1842 p. 259
1838	Deed 7 April 1838 Vol. A-4 Jacob Myers and wife Sarah to Henry Dewitt and Peter Dewitt For \$856. 34.24 acres.	Rec. 24 May 1842 p. 261
1842	Deed: 13 April 1842 Vol. A-4 Henry Dewitt Jr. to Henry Dewitt, Peter Dewitt, Cornelius W. Dewitt For \$2000. 7.6 acres	Rec. 24 May 1842 p. 262
1851	Release 29 Dec. 1851 Vol. M-4 June Hornbeck, Herman Rosenkrans & Ann, Jacob Dewitt & wife, John A. Dewitt & wife to Peter Dewitt, Henry Dewitt, Cornelius W. Dewitt For \$1.00. 306 acres.	Rec. 24 March 1852 p. 656
1851	Deed: 9 Dec. 1851 Vol. N-4 Cornelius Dewitt & wife to Henry Dewitt, Peter Dewitt For \$4000. 1/3 part of 305.98 acres	Rec. 15 April 1852 p. 139
1852	Deed: 20 Jan. 1852 Vol. N-4 Henry Dewitt & Elizabeth to Peter Dewitt For \$6000. "...from door of stone mansion house."	Rec. 15 April 1852 p. 137
1860	Deed: 31 March 1860 Vol. L-5 Peter Dewitt & Sarah to John Berk For \$12,000. 267 acres.	Rec. 10 May 1863 p. 38

- 1874 Will: 27 April 1874 Rec. 1 June 1874
Will Book WB-6 p. 344
John Berk, dec'd.
to Hannah L. Berk, Richard T. Layton (son-in-law), Mary Alice Berk
To each 1/3 if Hannah remarried. All to Hannah if she remained single.
Richard T. Layton had married S. Eliz. Layton
- 1917 Deed: 7 Feb. 1917 Rec. 27 Feb. 1917
Vol. O-11 p. 132
Martin Rosenkranz, one of the Special Masters in Chancery in New Jersey.
to John J. VanSickle and Clarence E. Layton
For \$6000. 267 acres. Settlement of a lawsuit brought because it was not practical to operate the farm except as a whole.
Interests in the property were as follows:
S. Elizabeth Layton, 1/3. Mary Alice Layton (wife of Jackson Layton), 1/3. Cory James Bell and Ernest M. Bell, each 1/6. Apparently Cory and Ernest Bell were sons of Hannah L. Berk by a second marriage.
- 1920 Deed: 21 May 1920 Rec. 22 May 1920
Vol. X-11 p. 323
John J. VanSickle and Abbie, his wife, and Clarence E. Layton and Maggie, his wife
to Floyd A. Snover and Harry W. Snover
For \$1. 267 acres.
- 1923 Deed: 1 Aug. 1923 Rec. 2 Aug. 1923
Vol. K-12 p. 415
Floyd A. Snover and Mary, his wife to Harry W. Snover. Half interest in the lands as described in deed of 21 May 1920.
Intention: to convey rights and interests acquired by adverse use and possession by prior owners. Subject to 1923 mortgage now due, \$4500 plus interest. Together with the undivided right in lands conveyed by J.J. VanSickle and C.E. Layton to F. and M. Snover, 21 May 1920.
- 1924 Deed: 9 Aug. 1924 Rec. 11 Aug. 1924
Vol. Q-12 p. 172
Harry W. Snover and Mary A., his wife
to Louis J. Richards
267 acres.

- 1932 Deed: 1 Sept. 1932 Rec. 9 Sept. 1932
Vol. 331 p. 226
Bartley F. Tuthill and Margaret M. Tuthill
to Susan M. Tuthill
For \$1.00 267 acres.
- 1941 Deed: 29 March 1941 Rec. 31 March 1941
Vol. 381 p. 307
Susan M. Tuthill, single to Nat Ludwig and Hilda Ludwig
For \$1. 267 acres.
- 1966 Deed: 2 March 1966 Rec. 3 Mar. 1966
Vol. 801 p. 439
Freida E. Beisler, widow, of Walpack Twp., Sussex Co., N.J.
to Bernice Haydu
For \$1.00. Tract is part of premises conveyed by Susan M.
Tuthill to Nat Ludwig and wife. Tract I is 211.86 acres and
contains the house.

4. Original plans and construction: This three-aisle, gable-roofed barn originally measured about 49' x 40'.
5. Alterations and additions: Two shed-roofed additions have been made. Across the rear southwest elevation, a section 20'-3" wide was added. Along the northwest elevation, a 12'-1" wide section was added.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Snur, ca. 1954 about \$8,000 to \$10,000 were spent in rebuilding the barn. The new floor in the loft, the concrete floors at grade, and the new shingles on the exterior walls may date from this renovation.

B. Sources of Information:

Hine, C.A. The Old Mine Road (from Hine's Annual of 1908). New Brunswick, N.J., 1963, p. 150.

Menzies, Elizabeth G.C. Before the Waters. Rutgers, 1966.

Snur, Mr. and Mrs., who live just above the Van Campen Inn.
Interview August 18, 1970.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
William C. Badger
Project Historians
HABS
August 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Early barn of a modified New World Dutch type, the only example known in the area.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair at time of description. Destroyed by fire in 1972.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 62'-8" across its four-bay front by 60'-7" deep.
2. Foundations: Rubble stone on northeast and southeast elevations. Other sides are joined by additions so foundation is removed or not visible.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Timber girts carry vertical boards cut with a rotary saw. Shingles are applied directly on the boards. The shingles are painted red and show no effects of the weather.
4. Structural system, framing: Braced timber frame construction. In the original portion knee braces are sawn timber, in general. Rest of timbers are hand hewn, including rafters. At ridge, center tenon of one rafter fits into a mortise in the other and is secured by a wooden peg. There is no ridgepole.

The main beams of the central loft floor have tongues that fit into mortises in the main columns. The tongues pass through the columns and project on the opposite side 2" to 4" at the northwest line of columns. (The comparable detail at the southeast line was not visible because that side of the barn was loaded with hay.) The ends of the tongues are cut off square. There is no taper or rounding of this projecting tongue, neither are there the pairs of pegs or wedges through the tongues at the outer face of the columns. In short, this connection has only a partial resemblance to the comparable detail of the true New World Dutch barns found in New York State. The tongue is held in the post by two pegs through the column and the tongue.

At the side walls, the top plate is notched to receive the rafters. The rafters at the side aisles are not as thick as those over the central loft.

The cross beam at the main central door (northeast side) has several rectangular mortises on the under side. Similarly, it is not as deep as the other cross beams. The first deep cross beam

has been augmented by another resting on columns only high enough to support this beam. The second deep cross beam was at some time supported by tension braces at approximately a 45° angle. Tapered notches for securing these remain in the rear side of the beam and of the posts above. It would appear, then, that sagging of the main beams was a problem. The third cross beam has wedges on top in order to level the floor above by counteracting the deflection of the beam.

The central rear wall above the level of the loft floor is framed with girts and vertical members of sawn lumber without mortise joinery. Iron rods and turnbuckles run from the principal columns to the corresponding columns at the outer sides of the side aisles.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Assorted vertical board and batten and X braced. Some hinged, some sliding on overhead track. Many sizes. Opening trim and door braces are painted white.

b. Windows: Lowers in each end gable; small windows, most on road side.

6. Roof: Gable; gray slate over wooden shingles and some composition roofing patches. Shingles laid on wood strips widely spaced. Rear lean-to has metal, V-lock roofing.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Wide central aisle is entered from gable end. Two side aisles; the one on the southeast side has a floor about 12" lower than the central aisle. Lofts at side aisles are at a lower level than the central loft. Loft on northwest side was originally lower--about 5' above main aisle--and has been raised somewhat. The addition on the the northwest side serves as a garage. The one on the southwest side contains animal pens.

2. Stairways: Wooden ladders.

3. Flooring: Concrete in center and southeast aisles. Wood floor in northwest aisle. Dirt floors in northwest and southwest additions. Loft floors are circular-sawn planks.

4. Hardware: The nails used for fastening both roof and wall shingles are machine-cut nails.

5. Mechanical equipment: Lightning rods. Wooden track and hay lift close to ridge.

D. Site

1. General setting: Barn's gable entrance end faces northeast. Old Mine Road runs close to southeast side. Isaac Van Campen House (HABS No. NJ - 436) is across the road and farther northeast.
2. Outbuildings: Newer concrete-block barn to the southwest. Silo stands at west corner. A two-story cottage is to the north.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
William C. Badger
Project Historians
HABS
August, 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1967 under the direction of Robert C. Giebner (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects, David L. Bouse (University of Nebraska), William L. McQueen (University of Illinois), and Dennis E. Walo (Texas A & M University) in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Wesley Shank and William C. Badger, project historians, in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1967.